

ANGLICAN COMMISSION ACCEPTS POPE'S SUPREMACY

June 1, 1999 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) - An Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue commission has released a document recognizing the Pope as "a gift to be received by all the Churches." The 43-page document titled *The Gift of Authority* was produced by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, which has been dialoguing for five years. The document was released on May 12 by Lambeth Palace, the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey. Though he admitted that the statement will be controversial, Carey said that "in a world torn apart by violence and division, Christians need urgently to be able to speak with one common voice." The document said that if a new united "Church" were created the Pope would exercise "universal primacy."

The commission concluded that the Bishop of Rome had a "specific ministry concerning the discernment of truth" and accepted that only the Pope had the moral authority to unite the various Christian denominations (Catholic Online, May 13, 1999).

This is evidence of further preparation for the establishment of an apostate One World Church.

The Lord Jesus Christ did not establish a pope over the churches. Peter did not hold a position of pope, and there was no provision made in the New Testament for the succession of apostolic authority after the death of the Apostles.

PETER VS. THE POPES

The following study is from the Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity --

1. There is no evidence that Peter was in Rome, and there is no evidence in the New Testament that there was anything special about the congregation at Rome, but the popes rule in Rome and claim that it is the "mother church." Peter's first epistle was written from Babylon, not from Rome, and the popes' claim that "Babylon" stands for Rome is mere conjecture. Paul wrote TO the church at Rome in A.D. 58, but though he mentions 27 people by name, he does not mention Peter. That would have been an awful affront if Peter had been the pope at Rome. Later, Paul writes FROM Rome to the Galatians, the Ephesians, the Philippians, the Colossians, and to Philemon, but not once does he mention that Peter is in Rome. In 2 Timothy 4:16 Paul said that no man stood with him and all forsook him when he answered his charges. Where was Pope Peter? The fact is that Peter was not a pope and he was not in Rome.
2. Peter was married (Matthew 8:14), but the popes cannot marry.
3. Peter said Holy Scripture is the sure Word of God and to this alone we are to give heed (2 Peter 1:19-21), but the popes say we are also to heed their uninspired traditions.
4. Peter warned of false teachers who would make merchandise of God's people (2 Peter 2:1-3), but the popes have not feared to sell their masses and their prayers and their indulgences.
5. Peter said baptism is a figure, a symbol, and that it is not water which saves us, but the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21), but the popes say that baptism itself brings salvation and that it is not merely symbolic.
6. Peter refused worship (Acts 10:25-26), but the popes have accepted honor and bowings and kissings which border on worship and have allowed themselves to be treated almost as gods.

7. Peter taught that salvation is strictly through the righteousness of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:1), but the popes claim that their sacraments are also necessary for salvation.

8. Peter taught against hierarchicalism, warning the pastors against "being lords over God's heritage" (1 Peter 5:1-4), and Peter mentioned no church office other than that of the elder; but the popes have set up a system of ecclesiastical lordship over the churches, and have added many offices which are never mentioned in the New Testament.

9. Peter taught that the only priesthood in the New Testament dispensation is the High priesthood of Jesus Christ and the general priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9), but the popes say that their "church" has a special priesthood which is ordained to distribute sacraments.

10. Peter taught that Jesus Christ is the rock upon which the church is founded (1 Peter 2:4-8), but the popes say that Peter was the rock.

11. Peter taught that men are born again through the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23), but the popes say that men are born again through baptism.

12. Peter taught that Christ has "once suffered for sins" (1 Peter 3:18), and "bare our sins in his own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24); but the popes say that Christ is sacrificed anew in each mass and that having Jesus Christ and his cross is not enough, that a believer also needs the Roman Catholic Church and its sacraments and priesthood.

13. Peter taught that the believer has a living hope, that he has an inheritance reserved in heaven, and that he is kept by the power of God (1 Peter 1:2-5); but the popes say that a believer cannot know for sure that he has a home in heaven.

14. Peter taught that the believer is not to be a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or a busybody in other men's matters (1 Peter 4:15); but the popes have been all of these things.